
The Data Cards Playbook

A toolkit for purposeful and people-centric dataset documentation for transparency in AI systems.

<https://pair-code.github.io/datacardsplaybook/>

#datacardsplaybook



THE DATA CARDS PLAYBOOK

Introduction

01 Ask

02 Inspect

03 Answer

04 Audit





THE DATA CARDS PLAYBOOK

Three Buckets

IN THIS SECTION

Determine which answers can be automated, and which require human input or oversight.

INSTRUCTIONS

Categorize each question in your Data Card template as automatable, human input, or augmentable. Discuss this as a group with downstream stakeholders and consider the data lifecycle, technical stacks, and compliance requirements for your team.

OUTCOMES

Guidelines or instructions to produce answers for filling out a Data Card template

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Basic

Bucket 1: Automate this!

Identify questions from the Data Card template where answers can or should be automated, and are self-explanatory. Add guidelines for answering these questions.

<p>📌 Question:</p> <p>📌 Guidelines for answering:</p>	<p>📌 Question:</p> <p>📌 Guidelines for answering:</p>	<p>📌 Question:</p> <p>📌 Guidelines for answering:</p>	<p>📌 Question:</p> <p>📌 Guidelines for answering:</p>
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Bucket 2: Augment this!

Add questions from the Data Card template where answers are automated and require additional explanations/context. Add guidelines for answering these questions.

<p>📌 Question:</p> <p>📌 Guidelines for answering:</p>	<p>📌 Question:</p> <p>📌 Guidelines for answering:</p>	<p>📌 Question:</p> <p>📌 Guidelines for answering:</p>	<p>📌 Question:</p> <p>📌 Guidelines for answering:</p>
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Bucket 3: Write this!

Add questions from the Data Card template where answers should be written by humans, and cannot be automated. Add guidelines for answering these questions.

<p>📌 Question:</p> <p>📌 Guidelines for answering:</p>	<p>📌 Question:</p> <p>📌 Guidelines for answering:</p>	<p>📌 Question:</p> <p>📌 Guidelines for answering:</p>	<p>📌 Question:</p> <p>📌 Guidelines for answering:</p>
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Final checks

YOU SHOULD NOW HAVE

—

- ✔ Categorized questions in your Data Card Template by source of response
- ✔ Engaged your downstream agents to account for their perspectives on trust-building
- ✔ Added guidelines to answers for questions



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[The Data Cards Playbook](#) is an adaptable toolkit of participatory activities, conceptual frameworks, and guidance that support Responsible AI practices for transparency in dataset documentation.

If you've adapted, implemented, or have feedback for this guidance, we'd love to hear from you at <https://github.com/pair-code/datacardsplaybook>.

Find the complete playbook at
<https://pair-code.github.io/datacardsplaybook>



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